

TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2016

In Attendance: Christina Goodwin, Robert Ferriere, John Rescigno and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Audience Members Present

Christina called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

MINUTE APPROVAL

John motioned to approve the Select Board minutes of March 1, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

Christina motioned to approve the Work Session meeting minutes of March 1, 2016 as written, Bob 2nd, so voted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bicycle Helmet Grant

Christina updated the public with regard to the Police Department applying for a bicycle helmet grant. The Town was approved for 10 helmets from the State. Chief Thompson mentioned that they hand these out to the kids that are stopped without them or to parents that cannot afford them.

Town Meeting/Budget Updates

- Upcoming Meetings:
- The Board has scheduled a number of meetings in the next few weeks to start projects and address items as discussing in Town Meeting. The Board has also scheduled a clean up day for the Town Pound on May 21, at 9:00am and a clean up for Hobart Park on May 24, at 5:00pm. Anyone interested in helping out, can show up at either location. Christina explained that the Select Board has started developing a priority list to make sure the projects get done and in the correct time frame.
- Christina explained that the Select Board looked up Orange-Atwell Bridge and the time said 5/27/16 or when DOT states it is necessary. It was explained that we are taking the next steps to move forward and the plan is to have the project on next year's warrant. Dave Leone submitted the information he had, which included minutes and a quote to replace..
- RFP for Assessing: it was explained that we will be going out for RFP's for Assessing this summer.
- The Select Board explained they will be going through the Hazard Mitigation Plan to make sure there isn't anything else that needs to be addressed.

- Perambulation: Sara will check with Alan Barnard to see where this stands for Alexandria. Sara will also reach out to Hebron to see if they received approval at the Town Meeting.
- Evaluation policy- The Select Board explained they are working on an Evaluation Policy based on the MRI Wage Study.
- There were no committee assignments or chair changes for the Board.
- Christina explained that each week we will continue to have these sections in the meetings until we have updated everything.

Atwell/Orange Bridge

Dave stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan states that the bridge should have been replaced in 2010. Miles Sinclair is perplexed that the state would say this because they are supposed to fund 75% and the funding hasn't been available. As of January it is still an E2 rated bridge but some categories went from fair to poor on the report. Sara will check with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to see where the bridge is at and if any money available. Christina said that we also were put on a list with North Country Council for possible funding avenues, so Sara will check on that. Dave said the paperwork he gave covers the engineering and wetlands. It didn't include labor but ME Latulippe said they would give estimate. Miles said that the Town should consider upgrading the bridge to cover the logging trucks, considering a more heavy duty alternative. An E2 rating only covers 80,000 pounds.

Town Clerk Salary

Miles asked if we have looked into the Town Clerk salary and how it is set. RSA 41:25 talks about the fees in paragraph 1 half way through the paragraph. Each Town at the annual Town Meeting may determine the rate to be allowed to the Town Clerk for his/her services. Miles said it could be argued that with the Board putting it in the budget and it getting approved that it is acceptable. Miles doesn't think it was done appropriately. Miles didn't think an hourly rate was given but the Board did mention at the Town Meeting that she would be getting the minimum rate of \$17.53 since she is new. Sara will check with New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) to see if this was done correctly or not and will follow up in the next meeting.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS:

Memo from Sara

Sara is requesting to leave early on Thursday 3/17 at 2:30pm, which will close the office. **Christina motioned to approve Sara's request to close the office early on 3/17/16 at 2:30pm, Bob 2nd, so voted.**

Moderator

The Supervisors of the Checklist appointed Tony Albert as the moderator. He will be sworn in before the next election.

Virus

There is a new virus called the Locky virus, which locks and encrypts files and requests a ransom to give the information back. It makes it look like it is coming from an admin email but it is not. In most cases, it will also have a zip file attached to the email. Everyone was warned to be wary of any email that has an attachment and if you do now know who it came from do not open it, just delete the email.

Debris Properties

- 559 North Groton Rd: This property is still in court. The property owners have filed for extension and the Town's Attorney has filed an objection to the extension. The property owners have been in touch about the weight limits on the road but since it is a State road we directed them to the State. A court order was granted directing the property owners to clean up or the Town will clean it up and will lien property.
- 10 Brock Lane: They have cleared four truckloads of debris from the property.
- Route 118: No progress has been made and they have a deadline of April 30 to have this completed.

Road Agent- Public Works Director

We received four applicants and interviewed three. Glen Hansen was chosen and the Board will be meeting with him next week to go over expectations.

Pam Yinger

Pam Yinger passed away on Saturday 3/12/16. The services will not be until May. Elizabeth added that she brought the birthday card that the Town signed and they will be using that in the services. Elizabeth also brought down the Town Report and read it to Pam. We will keep everyone posted as we get more information.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Combining Committees

Elizabeth asked if we found out if we can combine the Groton Recreational Committee and the Old Home Day Committee. Christina explained that we reached out to NHMA on this but still need to do some more research.

Incorrect information from previous meeting

Miles referenced minutes from the last meeting in February 2016 and also read notes from public hearing about the Ford that is part of the Highway Department vehicles. Miles said that there was incorrect information that stated the Select Board supported keeping the Ford 2-1. Miles explained that in the 2014 Warrant Articles, Article 5 stated "*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars (\$80,791) for the purpose of purchasing a new truck for the highway department, to be offset by authorizing the transfer of forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) from the Truck/Sander Capital Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to come from taxation with any funds received from the trade in value from the 2006 Ford F350 to be used to offset the amount raised through taxation. Article 7 is contingent upon the passage of this article*" The Select Board supported this 3-0. Miles states that this shows that the information that was given at the meeting in February and the notes from that meeting were incorrect.

Miles also explained that at Town Meeting there was an amendment made that Glen was looking to keep the truck. During budget process, Glen was looking for new truck because he didn't think the old truck would last and up to that time the Town was putting a lot of money into the truck. Miles problem with this is that Glen understood that the Select Board was supporting the article based on money from the sale of the Ford. He also didn't like that Glen didn't tell anyone and came to the Town Meeting with an amendment to keep the truck without

advising the Board at that time. Therefore, Miles and the public were not given the ability to bring documents to support getting rid of the Ford. It was voted to keep the truck. Miles didn't see how the other Select Board voted so he doesn't know if this is where the 2-1 vote came from but it wasn't just the Select Board that voted. Miles also said that Glen didn't submit a bill on the vehicle until the Town Meeting was over and the vote went in Glen's favor. This bill showed additional costs being charged to the Town due to the Ford needing more repairs.

The minutes should be corrected to state what really happened with the Ford back then. Christina explained that the minutes of this meeting will serve as correction. Christina apologized that she and someone else incorrectly recalled the 2-1 vote.

Dave Leone stated that he didn't go to that meeting or prior meetings, but in his recollection of meetings with the new truck, the old truck was to be disposed of as they have been in the past.

Septic Update

Dave Leone gave an update on the septic. He found the minutes to an older Board meeting when the then Board discussed the pitch. He will pass on those minutes that reflect this along with a Memo from the Administrative Assistant at that time that mentioned the power flush was added and if there are still problems they may have to turn up water pressure. Sara will scan and email the paperwork to the Select Board. Other minutes around that time frame may have more information.

Christina explained that the plumber came in and did correct the pitch and we haven't had any issues since then. If we continue to have issues then we will look at water pressure.

Non Public Folder

Dave Leone had some notes that were health issues and were mentioned in a non-public meeting so he requests to have this opened and reviewed by the Select Board in a non-public meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dave requested to have a copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan so he can make notes on a hard copy. Christina explained he can take notes but needs to understand that we cannot change it until the renewal date as FEMA won't allow us to at this point. Bob states that this will have to be updated by 2019 so the Board will start working on this in 2017 and a Committee would be established.

Groton Community Room

Elizabeth asked if LED bulbs are being donated to the Town, would the Board be okay with the lights in the Groton Community room be changed over to LED. They are okay as long as she doesn't need to be on a ladder. If a ladder is needed then we should solicit the Road Agent and his assistants for help.

Elizabeth mentioned that the light fixtures also need to be cleaned out. Sara will talk to Glen about doing this throughout the building.

Elizabeth asked to put out glue traps for mice in the community room. The Select Board would prefer not to use the glue traps but we will look into alternatives.

Having no other business to conduct, Bob motioned to adjourn at 8:10pm, Christina 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant